

Newlyweds Still Young at Heart

By ROSALIE ZUCKERMAN
TODAY Staff Writer

Eighty-three-year-old Norman Lund will celebrate Valentine's Day with a very special sweetheart — his bubbly new bride, Alice.

"I got a child of a bride," he said with pride. "She's only 71. I robbed her from the cradle."

The Lunds, who lost their original spouses through death, were married last Friday after a brief letter-writing courtship that began shortly before Christmas. It wasn't love at first sight — it was love after the third letter.

"We met through mutual friends, the Blaires," Lund said. "They come along and told me they had the nicest lady living next door and I should meet her."

Mrs. Lund added, "They told me he would like to have me write so I wrote and that led to this."

"She wrote one of the most interesting letters and I thought right then I met someone nice," Lund said.

"He wrote right back," Mrs. Lund recalled. "In the beginning we were trying to get acquainted. I told him things I did and he told me things he did."

"Every second day we got a letter and sent one," Lund said. "We had so many things in common. She played piano, violin, she paints in oil and she's traveled extensively. She wrote such good letters. They weren't mushy letters like kids write."

Were they romantic?

"They began to get that way," said Mrs. Lund. "His letters had a lot of warmth

and from his letters I knew he was a warm, kind person. I was looking for a birthday card and this seemed to hit the spot," she said, pointing to a Valentine's Day card she had sent her new sweetheart.

After six weeks they decided — it was time to meet.

So Lund invited his bride to visit him at his Melbourne home. They'll never forget that first date.

"I sat in the car; he was out in the cottage," Mrs. Lund said. "He came out and I rolled down the window and he said, 'Oh, you are Alice.' That's the first thing he said to me."

That evening, he took her out for a cozy, intimate dinner at Sambo's Restaurant.

"We didn't feel like strangers. It seemed like we had already been married for five years. I wasn't disappointed when I first saw her. I thought how nice," Lund said.

There was a physical attraction as well as a strong emotional bond between them, he added. "If she had been six-foot tall, 125 pounds, all skin and bones she wouldn't have attracted me. Her eyes were exciting."

"I liked his looks," Mrs. Lund said. "His eyes were direct and he has almost just a little shadow of a smile. He has a sense of humor and you can see it coming out of his features."

Shortly after she returned home she received a phone call from Lund inviting her back to his home. "He told me he wasn't going to let me go back." And he

didn't. The Lunds were married at the Community Church in Melbourne Beach. The bride wore a blue floral print dress and the proud, beaming groom was in a navy-blue suit.

"It was a lovely wedding," he said, holding his new bride's hand.

Both agreed that finding a new love after losing your first spouse is like starting life all over again.

"People who were married before and had a happy marriage that was terminated by death are looking for someone that will give you affection and love," Lund said. "If you had an airplane drop you in the middle of a swamp and there was all the loneliness and sounds and the next day a helicopter picked you up and you no longer had the fears of snakes and alligators — that's what you feel like. Like you'd been rescued. It's like somebody opens the door into a pleasant room you never saw before."

Both agreed, too, that you can be just as romantic at 80 as you were at 20.

"Age isn't in years; it's a state of mind," said Mrs. Lund. "I can't see any difference in the way I feel for him then if I was in my 20s."

Glancing affectionately at his new bride Lund added, "You feel all the love and affection — it's no different at 80 than at 25 or 30.

"I am the happiest I've ever been. I couldn't have found anyone to make me happier."

The newspaper photograph by Maurice Rivenbark (photographer on the staff of TODAY) of Norman and Alice Mae (Curtis) (Williams) Lund and the newspaper article ("Newlyweds Still Young at Heart") that are reproduced on the preceding two pages were borrowed from Edith Gardner by SRP on 05-29-79, and returned by SRP to EG on 06-07-79.